HORTICULTURE—NEW OUTLET FOR WOMAN'S ENERGY

The Only School in the Country Was Founded by Philadelphia Club Women to Provide a Substitute for the Time Honored Profession of Teaching—And the Girls Find Tilling the Soil, Keeping Bees and Analyzing Fertilizer Exciting and Stimulating Work.

"BACK to the soil" is the cry that has been heeded by the girl students at the Pennsylvania School of Horticulture. While city dwellers are complaining of the heat and mopping their moist brows in stuffy offices, these girls are out under the trees on their 71-acre farm in Ambler, Penn., listening to lectures on horticultural subjects. During the cooler parts of the day they spend their time in the practical side of the work, which has come to mean health and strength to many of the girls.

Probably the fact the women like to care for growing things may account for the successes which these girls have found on the school farm, which four years ago was among the many tracts of land listed as abandoned farms.

Clubwomen Organize School.

The school—the only one in the country—was founded in 1910 by a group of Philadelphia clubwomen who were anxious to stimulate interest in horticulture as a profession for women and to provide a substitute for the time-honored profession of teaching, which for years has been the chief outlet for women's ambitions. Many of these women are known throughout the country for their activity in movements for social and civic welfare. Among them may be mentioned Miss Emma Blakiston, Miss Jane B. Haines, Miss Mira L. Dock, former member of the Pennsylvania State Forestry Commission, and many others.

A would-be student must have a high school education or the equivalent thereof, to be eligible for admittance into the horticultural school. The tuition is $200 a year.

Poor Richard's motto of "Early to bed and early to rise" is steadfastly carried out by the students. Their dormitories consist of a large cottage, set in a shady spot on the farm, where the girls enjoy themselves at will. Late in the summer tents will be erected to provide additional sleeping quarters. Breakfast is eaten at the big stone farmhouse which is characteistic of so many Pennsylvania farms. The farmhouse is also the administration building, with offices and classrooms. The latter are used only in winter time. A group of the girls, however, boasted that all their classroom work was done out of doors last winter.

Twenty acres of the farm are devoted to practice work in special crops, and in addition to this each girl has a large plot of ground for vegetables and flowers, of which she undertakes the entire responsibility.

After breakfast the girls scatter to their work. Those who expect to specialize in chickens after they graduate hasten to the poultry yard, where part of their time is spent in building coops, setting hens, laying out "runs," or doing the thousand and one things necessary for success in this line.

Specializing in Bees.

Some of the girls intend to make a specialty of bees, and during the spring and early summer they have been busy caring for the new swarms. This year the girls expect to gather hundreds of pounds of honey, the proceeds of which will go toward the new administration building, for which they are helping to raise funds.

The asparagus plot yielded enormously, and so large was the crop of strawberries that a small army of pickers had to be employed to gather the berries. The orchard, too, is expected to yield a "bumper crop," the result of the careful pruning and spraying which the girls did in the spring. All the money realized from the crops this year will be added to the building fund.

Soil and Fertilizers Carefully Analyzed

Much time is spent in a study of soils and fertilizers, and it is not long before the girls acquire a knowledge of the subject which would be envied by many an expert farmer. Insects, too, are carefully studied by these embryo gardeners and farmers. Armed with microscopes, the students examine invaders of their gardens, and then proceed to exterminate them properly. Many trips are made to the woods to study the different varieties of fungi, and though not in the curriculum, the birds, too, come in for their share of attention.

Packing the fruits and vegetables in hampers for the market is an important part of the day's work and the girls vie with one another to see who can put up the most attractive hamper.

How to dispose of their products is one of the problems which these young horticulturists will have to face when they finish their two years' course and start out for themselves. That they may be able to cope with this problem also, Miss Jessie T. Morgan, principal of the school, insists that the girls take turns in going to market, so that they may become thoroughly acquainted with the business end of their profession.

Learn How to Market Products.

Commercial law is another subject with which the girls must become familiar, though this is dropped during the summer months in favor of more seasonable branches. Miss Morgan happens to be a lawyer as well as a horticulturist and she declares that a knowledge of commercial law is essential to success in this new-old occupation for women.

Girls Build Greenhouse.

A small, crudely fitted carpenter shop is the delight of the students, especially in rainy weather. Several hours a week are devoted to mastering the rudiments of carpentry, and though it must be confessed that thumbs have been pounded or bruised sometimes the girls soon demonstrate that they can do more than "drive a nail straight." One of the greenhouses was built by the girls themselves last fall, and this winter they are planning other feats quite as difficult in the way of new buildings. Many of the bookshelves, chairs and other articles of furniture in the girls' rooms were made by them.

Visits are frequently made to farms, gardens and nurseries in the vicinity. All the farmers' meetings and exhibitions held for miles around have their quota of eager student observers.

Athletics for Students' Recreation.

Not every hour of the day is spent in work and study, however. These athletic girls indulge in exciting games of baseball, tennis and many other outdoor sports. Walks and drives are taken to points of interest in the county, while the evenings are devoted to rest and quiet recreation.

Interest in the movement has spread widely during the past year, and in May the first annual meeting of the National Agricultural and Horticultural Association was held at the school. Experts from all parts of the country were present and plans were made to enable the new organization to act as a clearing house through which young women who are trained in all branches of agriculture and horticulture may obtain positions.

The officers of the association are: President, Mrs. Francis King, of Alma, Mich.; corresponding secretary, Mrs. Susan H. Volmer, of Huntington, Long Island; recording secretary, Miss Margaret Jackson, Englewood, N. J., and treasurer, Miss Louisa Davis, Ambler, Penn.

Mrs. Deland, the Novelist, a School Officer.

Among the vice-presidents are: Mrs. Margaret Deland, the famous novelist, Miss Mira L. Dock, Miss Anne Dorrance, a rose specialist, Mrs. H. B. Fullerton, Experimental Farms, Long Island; Miss Jane B. Haines, Philadelphia, and Miss Helena Rutherford Ely, of New Jersey.

The council includes: Mrs Edward Biddle, Carlisle, Penn.; Mrs. H. Tracy, Wenham, Mass.; Mrs. Nicholas Frazer, New York; Miss Hilda Loines, New York; Mrs. Frank Miles Day, Philadelphia; Miss Emma Blakiston, Philadelphia; Miss Elizabeth Leonard, Cambridge, Mass., Miss Elizabeth Peale, Miss Mary Rutherford Jay, New York; Mrs. H. Ware, Dairy Farms, Wareland, Mass.; Miss Helen Holmes, Kingston, Mass.; Miss Martha Van Rensselaer, Cornell University; Dean L. H. Bailey, Cornell University; Dean Ralph Watts, State College of Pennsylvania; Dr. John McFarlane, University of Pennsylvania.

THE FARM HOUSE AND ADMINISTRATION BUILDING

PREPARING THE SOIL

READY FOR TRANSPLANTING

IN THE GREENHOUSE AND THE GIRLS STUDENTS WHO BUILT IT.

THE MODERN PANDORA IN WALL STREET

IF SOME ONE were to tell you there were modern Pandoras you would straightway imagine them in some wooded dell—that is, if you placed any credence in such an assertion. Yet the modern resort of such romance is in the chasmed Wall Street district, and the latest firm to take such a fairy into its embrace is J. P. Morgan & Co.

All of which means that this concern, which has seen great changes in its methods of business since the death of its founder, will now, for the first time in its existence, have a woman to take charge of its filing system and have full responsibility for guarding all the precious secrets of this company's banking records.

Miss Annette Smiley is the young woman who will have charge of all the files housed in the new, low, pink sandstone building at Broad and Wall sts. This position is one which calls for much ability, as she is held directly responsible for all the papers of the firm. Correspondence, documents, trust deeds, mortgages, everything which in any way relates to the tremendous activities of the greatest banking house in America, will all come under her care.

She and her assistants must catalogue or index every letter, every memorandum, even the names and addresses of every person of interest to the firm, and the system must be so accurate yet so simple that a paper can be produced in a moment's search even though it were filed ten or twenty years before.

It is no new thing for the great banking houses of Wall Street to place women in command of their filing rooms. They were but following the efficiency slogan of the day when, more than ten years ago, they first cajoled the graduates of library schools from the path of literary activity to the more lucrative positions of business.

Casting Out the Devil of Gentility.

The difficulty at first was to persuade women to exchange the brave title of "librarian" for the plebeian appellation of "file clerk," but when they found that the pittance attached to the nobler calling would be multiplied fourfold in the downtown offices they speedily relinquished the profession for the job.

Miss Smiley, herself a trained librarian, was one of the first to apply the library system of indexing to the needs of the business world. For several years she was with Kuhn, Loeb & Co., which ranks next to the Morgan firm in importance with bankers, while more recently she installed a new method for the files of William Salomon & Co. Her success in both these places led to an offer from the greatest of them all—J. P. Morgan & Co.—and the first of November will find her at her desk ready to demonstrate the fitness of women in a new field.

Already, following the Morgan tradition, Miss Smiley refuses to discuss her new position, but she may well feel that she will be called on to show peculiar ability, as it is the first time that this firm has employed a woman in a confidential capacity. Mr. Morgan was unalterably opposed to women in business, and as long as he lived none of the partners cared to oppose his policy.

It was for years an open secret that the Morgan files were run very much in the same way as those of another well known banking house, which placed everything in the hands of a long trusted employe, who looked with scorn on card indices and boasted that memory served him far better than these new-fangled systems of cataloguing.

Those connected with the firm used to shudder at the thought of the chaos which would inevitably follow any accident to the one in charge. Many a valuable paper would be lost for weeks if anything should keep him away from the office, and it was well within the realm of probability that an important transaction would fail because the papers in the matter had been mislaid.

The "Old Retainer" Ideal Overthrown.

But with the death of Mr. Morgan the old order changed. Women had proven themselves equally trustworthy with men. In many offices they were believed to be more so. Confidential positions were being opened to them more and more, and they were justifying their selection.

There is no question that the three rooms to be placed at the disposal of Miss Smiley in the beautiful new building will be the rooms whose secrets will be most jealously guarded. Nothing short of a Congressional investigation will ever disclose the facts they hold.

Recently there was finished in Paris a woman's home on the Boulevard Saint-Marcel, the front of which bears, in luminous letters, the motto, "Le Droit Humain." The "International Mixed Fraternity of Free Masons," which built this home, is animated with the same deal as the male fraternity of Free Masons, but with this great difference, that the latter never wanted to initiate women into the secrets of the fraternity or admit them to the works in the temple, while the "mixed international fraternity" grants them both these privileges. The "mixed free masonry" was formed on April 4, 1893, by sixteen free masonic sisters and one brother, and to-day, after an existence of twenty years, its fourteen thousand members are distributed over five continents.

"Dans l'humanité la femme a partout les mêmes devoirs que l'homme, elle doit avoir les mêmes droits que lui dans la famille et dans la société" ("Woman has in humanity everywhere the same duties as man; she must also have the same rights as he has in the family and in society"), is the motto engraved in the stones of the new house.

Classicizing Modern Dancing

Portrayals of Pavlowa, the Tango and Other Dances Find Their Way Into the Paris Salon—The Newest Dances.

IT IS rather startling to be told that modern dancing, which has drawn most of the civilized world in its gay whirl, has invaded the realm of art. That dancing has been liberated from its conventionality by the Russian we know. One result on a sister art has been a deluge of pictures and statues flooding the Salon this year, all having to do with terpsichorean subjects. Such has been the discovery of Mrs. Helen S. Noble, a dancing teacher, who has just returned from Europe, where she studied the comparative characteristics of the dance.

"The end of the dancing craze has been predicted of various nations and also its influence on art," said Mrs. Noble, "yet never have there been so many works of art submitted with dancing as their subject. And those that we had in former years lacked just that bit of fire and passion that the pictures of this year have because of the lesson learned from the Slav."

Pavlowa in "La Cygne" Immortalized.

"What pleased me more than anything else," she said, "was a silver statuette of Pavlowa, called 'A la Cygne,' after her famous dance. It was covered by a glass dome, and there it glistened as an everlasting memorial to the divine dancer, who has done so much to further public interest in her art. I was very glad to see this tribute to her, and to think that she might be so immortalized. The figure, by Emanuel Ordoñe de Rosales, received a medal, and every one who has seen her in this beautiful dance will look with pleasure on this crystallization of it.

"The effect of all this will be, no doubt, to classicize the modern dance and to finally remove the still existent probationary feeling. Greek dancing was classicized by its drama and art, the minuet and the waltz by music, orchestral and operatic, and now the latest phase in its evolution has its turn.

Spanish Are Truest Natural Dancers.

"It is rather interesting to note the national difference in the execution and selection of the various forms. The truest natural dancers are the Spanish. They enter into the spirit of it; they imbue it with a fire and untutored abandon that are found in no other race. The Russian has fire, it is true, but there are restraint and a conscious art which are not found in the impatient Spanish dances.

"Another dance which has recently been brought over to this country and of whose popularity I am not altogether assured is the Lula Fado. It is a Portuguese dance, brought here by way of Paris, and is of the two-step order.

It is a beautiful and graceful dance, but there are one or two reasons for my belief that our men here will not take overkindly to it. In the first place, there is a good deal of the snapping of fingers that marks all Spanish dances, and of the passionate and playful stamping of feet, to which the self-conscious and rather self-contained American man will not unbend. He does not like to strike attitudes, and the raising aloft of the arm, with its semblance of theatricality, will seem unnatural and be very difficult for him.

"The one-step, which is so prevalent here, is not at all liked in Paris. To them it typifies the caricature-like motions which we infuse into all our dances. They do not know how to dance it properly. In an evening's dancing there will be perhaps one hesitation, and one one-step, with the remainder of the program consisting of the tango, the popular Maxixe and the Lula Fado.

Germans Dance Beautifully on Skates.

"The Germans do not favor the tango particularly, but are fond of the one-step, which they dance in a heavy fashion. What interested me most in Germany's offerings of amusements was the unique Ice Palace. There one saw the most graceful dancing on skates of the tango, the maxixe, the one-step and hesitation that one could imagine. The manipulation of the skates on ice seemed to be a matter of no importance to the dancers, and large ballets were as easily managed as solo parts.

"I am puzzled to know whether the present upheaval will have much effect on dancing, whether it will mean a new prominence of the Slavic element, that has already shown such a strong disposition to come to the fore, or whether it will arouse the Teutons and lead them to infuse a bit of their temperamental characteristics into this art, which is now of more importance than it has been for the past two thousand years.

HARRY TURNER AGENCY
271 LEXINGTON AVE. Tel. Murray Hill 2369. Formerly with Lida A. Seely. Male & Female Help. References investigated and on file.